ABSTRACT

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Multi-Protocol Communication Subsystem Controller

A common programming interface in a communication subsystem
controller allows protocols to be developed or modified to communicate with

10   the communication subsystem controller. Once a protocol layer is able to
communicate with the communication subsystem controller, the protocol layer
is stacked with other protocol layers compatible with the communication
subsystem controller. A table in the communication subsystem controller
specifies an order of protocol layers in the protocol stack. These protocol

15   layers in the protocol stack communicate with their adjacent protocol layers
through the communication subsystem controller. The communication
subsystem controller does not have knowledge of any protocol specific
information as the protocol specific information resides only with each protocol
layer. Error recovery is built into the communication subsystem controller. In

20   the event of a node failure, there is no loss of the communication subsystem
information and communication between an application program and the
protocol stack can resume from the point before the node failure.